

**CONSULAR NEWS  
SENEGAL & GUINEA BISSAU**

**U.S. Embassy Dakar, Senegal  
April 2008**

**Welcome Matilda Gawf**

We wish a warm welcome to our new Vice Consul, Matilda Gawf, who arrived in April. We are pleased to announce that for the first time in several months the officer positions are filled. With this new complement, the vice consuls have shifted responsibilities. Jeanne Clark will now serve as American Citizen Services Chief.

**Protests Against Price Increases**

Senegal has witnessed and will likely continue to witness protests against price increases. An authorized protest organized by opposition parties was scheduled for Saturday, April 25 to take place between Boulevard General De Gaulle from RTS to the Obelisk near the Gendarmerie Colobane. An authorized demonstration organized by two consumer unions on March 30 resulted in police using tear gas and batons to disperse the protesters.

The Embassy continues to remind everyone that public demonstrations, political gatherings, and student protests are relatively common in Senegal, both in Dakar and in outlying regions. Due to the potential for violence during such protests, U.S. citizens should avoid political gatherings and street demonstrations, and maintain security awareness at all times. For guidelines on dealing safely with public demonstrations, please see the American Citizen Services page of the U.S. Embassy Dakar website at <http://dakar.usembassy.gov/service.html>.

**BMI British Midland Airlines ends service to Dakar**

BMI British Midland will stop all their operations to/from London to Dakar on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. We encourage anyone with a ticket beyond that date to contact the company directly for further instruction.

**2008 Stimulus Payment**

Have you filed an income tax return for 2007? Did you receive VA benefits for 2007? You may be eligible to receive an economic stimulus payment from the federal government. We encourage you to review the attached flyer or visit [www.IRS.gov](http://www.IRS.gov) for further details.

## **Crime Watch**

An armed robbery occurred on the road to Kolda in April. Travelers are reminded to take precaution when traveling by road to the Ziguinchor region. Please refer to our February 27 Warden message at <http://dakar.usembassy.gov/service/warden-messages-and-monthly-consular-news.html> for further details.

One April evening at about 10:00 p.m. in Thies, three men attacked an American Citizen and stole her purse along with her passport and other valuables.

An American citizen was accosted in April at the Airport at approximately 23:50. Soon after he had gotten out of the vehicle, the would-be mugger threw a suitcase in front of the citizen which caused him to trip and fall. When the would-be mugger attempted to take his wallet, a fist fight ensued.

## **April/May Holidays**

The Embassy will be closed for the following U.S. and Senegalese holidays:

May 1: Ascension/International Labor Day

May 12: Pentecost

May 26: Memorial Day

## **Hours for American Citizen Services**

We are open for routine American citizen services Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. When you arrive at the embassy, please show your U.S. passport or proof of American citizenship to the guard and go directly to the Consular Receptionist window. You do not have to wait in line with visa applicants.

Emergency American citizen services are available during U.S. Embassy normal working hours which are Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For an after-hours emergency involving an American citizen, please call 77-383-9566.

We are also available by e-mail at [consulardakar@state.gov](mailto:consulardakar@state.gov).

## **Have You Left Senegal or Guinea-Bissau?**

If you have left Senegal or Guinea-Bissau, please e-mail us at [consulardakar@state.gov](mailto:consulardakar@state.gov) so we can remove your name from the warden registration database. If you would like to remain on the newsletter mailing list, please let us know in your e-mail.